

Access to Funding

It is clear that the bond authority for public school construction projects is running low. There is approximately \$1.4 billion worth of unfunded approvals, leaving \$1.2 billion in remaining bond authority. The Office of Public School Construction (OPSC) continues to diligently reach out to districts to keep them updated on the status of available funding.

In the second Priority Funding certification 30-day filing period, which ended on February 9, 2012, the OPSC received requests for 250 projects from 117 districts, representing approximately \$768 million in unfunded approvals. This accounts for approximately half of the unfunded list. These requests are valid until July 10, 2012. At this time, approximately \$60 million has been identified as available for apportionment to projects on the unfunded approval list with valid certifications. OPSC will bring forward these apportionments to the March State Allocation Board (SAB) meeting. The next 30-day filing period begins on Wednesday, July 11, 2012.

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"To enrich the lives of California's school children as stewards of the taxpayers' commitment to education"

EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
Governor, State of California

ANNA M. CABALLERO
Secretary, State and Consumer Services Agency

FRED KLASS
Director, Department of General Services



Office of Public School Construction
STAFF TO THE STATE ALLOCATION BOARD

As a reminder, projects that received priority funding apportionments at the December 14, 2011 SAB meeting must submit a *Fund Release Authorization* (Form SAB 50-05) for receipt by the OPSC no later than March 13, 2012.

Currently, the OPSC is working with the California Energy Commission and the Division of the State Architect to gather information concerning the variety of programs available to districts, incentivizing them to utilize solar energy and energy efficiency options. The goal is to create a portal of online resources and organize future outreach events. Our progress will be reported to the SAB and updates will be announced here in Building Blocks.

Please send comments and suggestions for future editions of Building Blocks to opscnews@dgs.ca.gov.



Lisa Silverman, Acting Executive Officer

Important Note: No 2012 Joint-Use Funding Round

The Joint-Use program allows school districts to utilize joint-use partner and State funding to build a joint-use project the district would not otherwise be able to build due to lack of financial resources. With the Joint-Use program, the State Allocation Board has provided unfunded approvals and/or apportionments on a yearly basis through a funding round process. Please be advised that the Office of Public School Construction will not be accepting applications for a 2012 Joint-Use funding round because there is insufficient bond authority to fund projects with applications received in 2011.

If you have questions about the Joint-Use Program, please contact:

Brian LaPask at (916) 375-4667 or brian.lapask@dgs.ca.gov
Deah Johnson at (916) 376-1658 or deah.johnson@dgs.ca.gov

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Increase to the 2012 Grant Amounts

By Jason Casillas

At its January meeting, the State Allocation Board (SAB) considered options for the execution of the annual grant adjustment to School Facility Program (SFP) project approvals. The SAB was presented various options regarding the application of the Construction Cost Index (CCI) increase for 2012, including the option to apply the increase to any or all projects on the unfunded approvals list. The projects on the unfunded list have approval dates from 2009, 2010, and 2011. At the January meeting, the SAB held the item over and directed staff to return with historical data on how CCI changes have previously been applied to SFP unfunded lists.

Staff presented the historical data and options for the SAB's discussion at the February meeting. Based on the SAB's direction, only projects added to the unfunded list on or after January 2012 will be adjusted to reflect the increased 2012 grant amounts. The unfunded list will be updated in the near future to reflect the increase to these projects.

For additional information, please contact your [OPSC Project Manager](#).

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New Construction Subcommittee

By Travis Williams

At the February 22, 2012 State Allocation Board (SAB) meeting, Office of Public School Construction staff presented recommendations from the SAB New Construction Subcommittee.

The Subcommittee was created in September 2011 to consider the future of the School Facility Program (SFP). In particular, the SAB wished to take a look at where we stand with New Construction bond authority between now and any future school facilities bond that could be placed on the ballot.

The Subcommittee met on November 7, 2011, January 11, 2012, and February 14, 2012, to discuss a variety of topics including the extension of available bond authority, Level III developer fees, and SFP eligibility.

The Subcommittee presented the following recommendations for the full SAB's consideration:

- Level III Developer Fee Recommendation – Recommend to the Legislature to suspend Level III developer fees through December 31, 2014.
- Transfer of Remaining ORG Bond Authority Recommendation – The majority of the Subcommittee members agreed not to suggest (to the Legislature) a transfer of Overcrowding Relief Grant (ORG) authority at this time.
- Regulation of Remaining Bond Authority Recommendation – Direct the SAB to regulate the remaining bond authority to extend the current program of providing unfunded approvals until the end of 2014.
- Future Acceptance and Processing of Funding Applications Recommendation – Continue to accept applications beyond the current available bond authority and develop a method for tracking these projects.

The SAB agreed to recommend to the Legislature a suspension of Level III developer fees through December 31, 2014. At this time, the SAB decided not to suggest (to the Legislature) a transfer of ORG authority. The SAB did not take action to regulate the remaining bond authority to extend the current program of providing unfunded approvals. The SAB approved a motion for the

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OPSC to accept and date stamp applications beyond the current available bond authority, and asked the SAB Implementation Committee to discuss development of a method for tracking these projects for the SAB's future consideration.

For additional information, please refer to the meeting [agendas and webcasts](#), or contact your [Project Manager](#).

Did you know?

The Office of Public School Construction (OPSC) participated in the 33rd Annual Coalition for Adequate School Housing Conference on February 21, 2012. The OPSC provided information and updates at three conference events. The materials and archived webcasts of the OPSC presentations are available on the OPSC [website](#). You can also view the presentations by clicking the links below.

- Top Tips for Getting Your Project Approved – An Overview of the State Agencies
[Presentation](#)
[Webcast](#)
- Legislative Update
[Presentation](#)
[Webcast](#)
- Prepare the Perfect Cost Estimate for Site Development Grants – A Presentation by the OPSC Plan Verification Team
[Presentation](#)
[Webcast](#)

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Priority Funding Process

By Travis Williams

At its January 25, 2012 meeting, the State Allocation Board (SAB) requested that the Office of Public School Construction (OPSC) provide a report detailing the priority funding process. In February, OPSC Staff presented a report highlighting the three main steps associated with priority funding: priority funding request, apportionment, and fund release, which are detailed below.

Priority Funding Request:

Each year, the SAB will hold two priority funding request periods. Filing periods begin on the second Wednesday of January, and the second Wednesday of July, each calendar year. Requests are valid until the next filing period begins. For example, a request submitted during the January 2012 filing period is valid until the close of business on July 10, 2012 (the next request submittal period opens July 11, 2012).

Each priority funding request must contain three specific statements. Please refer to the [Procedures for School Facilities Program \(SFP\) Funding](#) for the required content.

Financial Hardship Projects:

Prior to receiving an actual apportionment, districts with Financial Hardship projects on the unfunded approvals list must undergo a review of their financial records to determine if there are additional funds available to contribute to the project(s). For projects added to the unfunded list between February 25, 2009 and June 30, 2011, only the district's revenue received on or after July 1, 2011 will be considered in the calculation of available funds. Projects added to the unfunded list after July 1, 2011 will be subject to a review of additional funds available.

Apportionment:

The twice yearly request process approved by the SAB in May 2011 has changed the way priority funding apportionments are made. Under the new system, the SAB has the ability to make ongoing monthly priority funding apportionments from cash returning to the SFP.

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In order to make apportionments, the SAB must have available cash to match the allocated bond authority. The SAB typically has two main avenues of receiving cash in order to make apportionments: bond sale proceeds and cash returning to the SFP. The majority of cash available for apportionment comes from bond sale proceeds.

Cash returning to the SFP may take the form of rescissions, return of savings, reductions to costs incurred, closeout reviews, etc. The total amount of cash made available through this avenue is very small compared to bond sales.

The apportionment of bond sale proceeds and cash returning to the program is made at the SAB's discretion. Bond sale proceeds and cash made available during a specific request period may be apportioned during that period or at a later date. Districts receiving a priority funding apportionment must have a valid request at the time an apportionment is approved by the SAB.

Any requests to participate in the new funding process that are not converted to apportionments during the specific request period shall retain their date order position on the unfunded approvals list. These districts shall have the ability to submit request letters during subsequent filing periods. Request letters for projects not converted to apportionments will not be returned to the district or kept by the OPSC.

Fund Release:

From the date that the SAB converts its unfunded approval to an apportionment, a district will have 90 days to submit a completed *Fund Release Authorization* (Form SAB 50-05) that meets all of the existing requirements. The Form SAB 50-05 submittal must contain an original signature from an authorized District Representative and must be physically received by the OPSC prior to the close of business on the 90th day. Failure to meet this deadline will result in the project being rescinded with no further SAB action. A rescinded application will revert back to an unfunded approval at the bottom of the unfunded approvals list and cannot be guaranteed future State funding. The new unfunded approval date will be the date that the Form SAB 50-05 was due to the OPSC.

The procedures above are established in SFP Regulation Sections 1859.81, 1859.90.1, 1859.90.2, 1859.129 and 1859.197. These regulations can be viewed [online](#).

For more information concerning priority funding, please contact your [OPSC Project Manager](#) or refer to the [Procedures for SFP Funding](#).

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Don't Jeopardize Your Funding— Important Labor Compliance Reminder

By Janna Shaffer

At the State Allocation Board (SAB) meeting in October 2011, the SAB announced to all school districts that because the bond authority for Proposition 1D is nearing depletion, there is no longer flexibility for bond source switching as a solution for districts that have received funds from Propositions 47 and 55 and have not implemented a Labor Compliance Program (LCP).

It is imperative that districts understand that since there is very little bond authority remaining in Proposition 1D, districts that are funded will be receiving funds from either Proposition 47 or 55, requiring the enforcement of an LCP. Please be aware that if the initial public works construction contract for your project was awarded prior to January 1, 2012, the district must have initiated a Department of Industrial Relations (DIR)–approved LCP in order to be eligible for funding from Propositions 47 or 55. Regardless of School Facility Program fund source, any project for which the initial public works construction contract is awarded on or after January 1, 2012, is subject to new Prevailing Wage Monitoring (PWM) requirements through the DIR, pursuant to Labor Code Section 1771.3. If these requirements are not met, your project may be subject to future rescission.

For additional questions on LCP or PWM requirements, please contact your [Project Manager](#).

Did you know?

The 2012 Implementation Committee meeting schedule is now available online. Agenda information is available on the OPSC's Implementation Committee [webpage](#) prior to each meeting.

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Implementation Committee Update

By Jeremy McCarroll

The following items were presented at the February 10, 2012 Implementation Committee (IMP) meeting:

SB 128: High Performance Incentive grants for Career Technical Education Facilities Program projects

Continuing the discussion from the January 10, 2012 meeting, the committee discussed applying the High Performance Incentive grant to the Career Technical Education Facilities Program pursuant to Chapter 622, Statutes of 2011 (Senate Bill 128 – Lowenthal).

Office of Public School Construction (OPSC) staff presented options to the committee. OPSC staff received input from the committee and the public regarding the proposed options. Discussion on this topic will continue at a future IMP meeting.

For additional information, please contact:

Jeremy McCarroll at (916) 375-4210 or jeremy.mccarroll@dgs.ca.gov
Bryan O'Dell at (916) 375-4271 or bryan.odell@dgs.ca.gov

Improvements to the Project Information Worksheet (PIW)

Pursuant to State Allocation Board direction, the committee discussed improvements to the PIW.

OPSC staff presented background information related to the information captured by the PIW, the information and documents needed to complete the PIW, areas for improvement, and proposed changes. OPSC staff received input from the committee and the public. Discussion on this topic will continue at a future IMP meeting.

For additional information, please contact:

Hannah Konnoff at (916) 375-4037 or hannah.konnoff@dgs.ca.gov
Bryan O'Dell at (916) 375-4271 or bryan.odell@dgs.ca.gov

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School of the Month

McFarland High School

McFarland Unified School District, Kern County

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT:

New Construction

McFarland High School, built in the 1930s, sits as a landmark and the heart of McFarland, California. This prominent position has impacted the ability of the high school to grow and accommodate its increasing population. McFarland High School has an Average Daily Attendance of approximately 850 students and sits on 17 acres. To accommodate growth and include state-of-the-art education facilities, the district constructed the two-story Science and Technology complex (the first multi-story building in McFarland), which is located adjacent to the historic gym. The building was specifically designed to complement the existing campus. In addition to the first elevator in the City of McFarland, the Science and Technology Complex provides the following amenities:

- Five classrooms, general and Special Education, with computers and/or smart boards
- Two fully-equipped science laboratories, including fume hoods and storage
- A video production laboratory, which has space for filming and editing using state-of-the-art equipment
- A computer laboratory

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School of the Month: McFarland High School, continued...

- Plaza and restrooms providing student gathering area and amenities

SmartBoard Technology Presentation Packages are utilized in each classroom. All rooms are equipped with enhanced sound systems that balance sound production and better enable our English Learner students to listen to and comprehend information. The complex is also a community resource, providing computer access and an intimate presentation venue for special events held after hours and on weekends. The community pride of McFarland has been renewed with the addition of the Science and Technology complex. It is the dominant focal point from the interior of the school campus and shines with *Cougar Pride!*

Taylor Teter Partnerships provided architectural design, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, structural engineering and construction administration services for this two-story addition. The project was designed to meet Collaborative for High Performance Schools requirements and exceed T-24 energy savings by 18%.

McFarland Two-Story Classroom Building

Square Footage: **12,962**

Completion Date: **December 2010**

Lease-Leaseback Contractor: **S.C. Anderson, Inc.**



Science Classroom



Marlin Isaacs, Kaye Breyer, and Jim Beltran, Board Members; and Gabriel McCurtis, District Superintendent

Would you like to see your project featured as the "School of the Month?" Please email opscnews@dgs.ca.gov.

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Bond Proceeds Released

By Ryan Malloy

The Office of Public School Construction has processed the following fund releases from 2009–2011 bond sales as of January 31, 2012:

March 2009 Bond Sale:

Total funds released: \$528.8 million of \$528.8 million — 100 percent

Total projects: 235 projects have received funds

April 2009 Bond Sale:

Total funds released: \$1.429 billion of \$1.438 billion — 99 percent

Total projects: 416 projects have received funds

October 2009 Bond Sale and November 2009 Commercial Paper:

Total funds released: \$479.4 million of \$509.6 million — 94 percent

Total projects: 233 projects have received funds

November 2009 Bond Sale and December 2009 Commercial Paper:

Total funds released: \$108.4 million of \$111.4 million — 97 percent

Total projects: 36 projects have received funds

March 2010 Bond Sale:

Total funds released: \$1.275 billion of \$1.351 billion — 94 percent

Total projects: 268 projects have received funds

November 2010 Bond Sale:

Total funds released: \$1.462 billion of \$1.483 billion — 99 percent

Total projects: 524 projects have received funds

October 2011 Bond Sale:

Total funds released: \$457.2 million of \$963.6 million — 47 percent

Total projects: 219 projects have received funds

See [Status of Funds](#) for more details.

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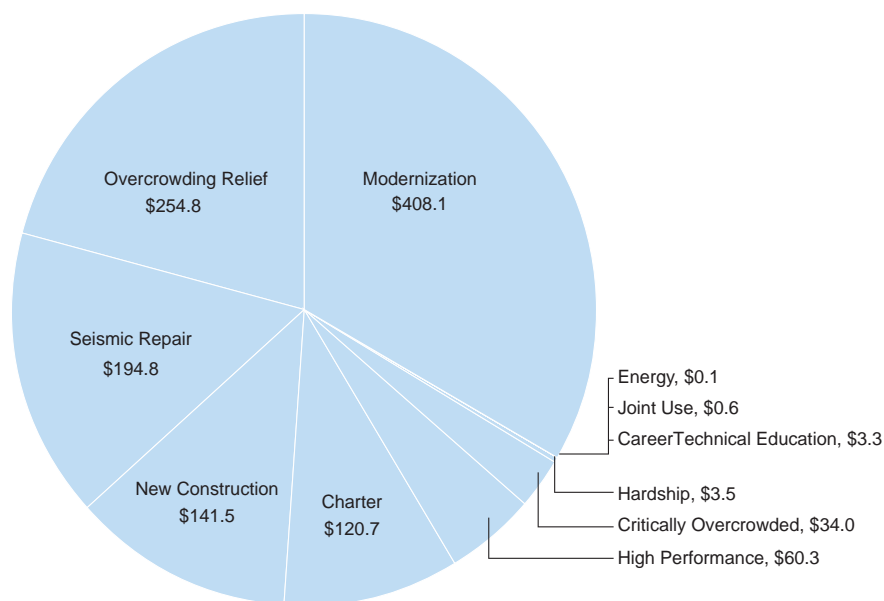
State Allocation Board

bill.savidge@dgs.ca.gov



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Remaining Bond Authority



\$1.222 billion as of February 22, 2012
(by program, in millions)

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Regulatory Update

Charter School Rehabilitation Projects Applying for High Performance Incentive Grant Funding

- Adopted at the October 26, 2011 State Allocation Board (SAB) meeting.
- Proposed regulations provide clarification of Section 6 of the *Application for Funding* (Form SAB 50-04) for Charter School Facilities Program Rehabilitation projects applying for the High Performance Incentive additional grant.
- Current Status: 45-day public comment period will end on March 19, 2012.

Prevailing Wage Monitoring Regulations

- Adopted on an emergency basis at the December 14, 2011 SAB meeting.
- Proposed to implement prevailing wage monitoring compliance requirements specified in Chapter 378, Statutes of 2011 (Assembly Bill 436-Solorio).
- Current Status: Review process continues.

Amendments Relating to Special Day Class Modernization Grants

- Adopted at the January 25, 2012 SAB meeting.
- Proposed regulations allow school districts to request less than the currently required 101 modernization grants for projects applying for Special Day Class pupil grants, and repeal references relating to the Small High School Program.
- Current Status: Review process continues.

Note: Regulations become effective upon review and approval of the Office of Administrative Law.

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Upcoming Meetings and Events

State Allocation Board (SAB) – [View SAB calendar](#)

- March 28, 2012 (Wednesday) 4:00 p.m.
- April 25, 2012 (Wednesday) 4:00 p.m.

Pre–SAB Meeting Forums

- March 28, 2012 (Wednesday) 9:30 a.m.
- April 25, 2012 (Wednesday) 9:30 a.m.

Implementation Committee (IMP) – [View IMP calendar](#)

- March 9, 2012 (Friday) 9:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m.
- April 13, 2012 (Friday) 9:30 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

Upcoming Deadlines

December 2011 Priority Funding Apportionments

Deadline to submit *Fund Release Authorization* (Form SAB 50-05) for projects that received Priority Funding apportionments at the December 14, 2011 SAB meeting:

- March 13, 2012

Priority Funding

Expiration of certifications submitted during the second certification filing period:

- July 10, 2012

Start of the third certification filing period:

- July 11, 2012

Overcrowding Relief Grant Program (ORG)

10th ORG Round — Submit applications by July 31, 2012

For additional information, please see the [OPSC Events Calendar](#) online.

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